REMARKS

The specification has been amended to provide a cross-reference to the previously filed International Application.

The claims have been amended to delete the improper multiple dependencies and to place the application into better form prior to examination.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by this Amendment.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments

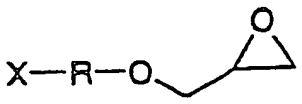
(Rev. 03/27/01)

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims have been amended as follows:

6. (Amended) The paint composition according to [any of claims 1 to 5] claim 1, characterized in that it contains as a coalescent agent a glycidyl ether according to formula I



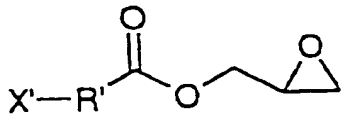
I

wherein R is a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated C_3-C_{20} hydrocarbon, optionally containing one or several hydroxyl groups, and

X represents hydrogen or a hydroxyl group.

7. (Amended) The paint composition according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that the hydrocarbon residue of the glycidyl ether is derived from 1-butanol, 2-butanol, isobutanol, 1-pentanol, isopentanol, 1-hexanol, 2-ethylhexanol, 1-heptanol, 1-octanol, 2-ethyl-1,3-hexanediol, neopentyl glycol, 2-butyl-2-ethyl-1,3-propanediol, trimethylol ethane, trimetylol propane, 1,4-butanediol, neodecane alcohol, 1-6-hexanediol, 1,10-decanediol or 2-ethyl-2-hexen-1-ol.

8. (Amended) The paint composition according to [any of claims 1 to 4] claim 1, characterized in that it contains as a film forming agent a glycidyl ester according to formula II



II

wherein R' is a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated C_2-C_{20} hydrocarbon, optionally containing one or several hydroxyl groups, and

X represents a methyl group, methylene hydroxy group or a carboxyl or lower carboxylate group.

9. (Amended) The paint composition according to [any of claims 1 to 5 or 8] claim 1, characterized in that the carboxylic acid residue of the glycidyl ester is derived from butanoic acid, isobutanoic acid, pentanoic acid, isopentanoic acid, 1-hexanoic acid, 2-ethylhexanoic acid, heptanoic acid, octanoic acid, neodecanoic acid, 2-hydroxy-isobutanoic acid, 2,2-dimethyl-3-hydroxypropanoic acid, 2-ethyl-2-hexenoic acid, oleic acid, linolic acid, adipic acid, fumaric acid, maleic acid, succinic acid, glutaric acid or an anhydride or another derivative thereof.

10. (Amended) The paint composition according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that the coalescent agent is 2-ethylhexylglycidyl ether, octyl glycidyl ether, mono-

or diether of neopentylglycol or triglycidyl ether of trimetanolpropane, or 2-ethylhexyl glycidyl ester, octyl glycidyl ester or isopentyl glycidyl ester or methyl glycidyl ester of glutaric acid.

11. (Amended) The paint composition according to claim 1, characterized in that its pH is below about 8.5, perferably below 8.0.

12. (Amended) The paint composition according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that it contains in addition to the glycidyl ether and/or ester at least one other coalescent agent, the proportion of the glycidyl ether and/or ester of the coalescent agents of the composition amounting to at least 20 wt.%, preferably at least 50 wt.%.